

## **Round Table Report on Notable Energy Development in Member Countries – Australia**

### **Key Messages**

- The last few months have been a particularly active period for energy policy in Australia with a number of significant energy and climate change related policies being announced:

#### **APEC Leaders Meeting**

- On 9 September 2007, APEC economies endorsed the Sydney Declaration dealing with climate change and energy matters. Despite the different perspectives of APEC economies, there was agreement through the Sydney Declaration on three very important and quite specific things:
  - First, the need for a long term aspirational, global, emissions reduction goal.
  - Second, the need for all nations, no matter what their stage of development, to contribute according to their own capacities and their own circumstances to reducing greenhouse gases.
  - Third, there was agreement on specific APEC goals on energy intensity and forestry and on the important role of clean coal technologies.

#### **Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (APP)**

- Also announced at the APEC Sydney leaders meeting was an additional \$50 million provided by Australia to the APP for larger scale energy technology projects. This brings total Australian funding to \$150 million for practical projects to address climate change and clean development.

#### **APNet**

- The Prime Minister also announced the establishment of the Asia Pacific Network for Energy Technology known as "APNet" during APEC Leaders' Week.
- APNet will formalise and strengthen clean energy research and development collaboration in the Asia Pacific region. Activities will focus on clean fossil energy, renewable energy, energy efficiency and nuclear energy.
- Members of the network will include governments, academic institutions and private sector research bodies. APNet will improve the linkages between these laboratories, and will focus on the medium-term technology breakthroughs that are needed to cost-effectively address climate change.

#### **Australia's climate change response**

- In July 2007, the Australian Government released *Australia's Climate Change Policy – Our Economy, Our Environment, Our Future*.
- Australia's climate change policy framework embraces reducing domestic emissions at least

economic cost; developing key low emissions technologies; improving energy efficiency; supporting world class climate science and climate change adaptation; and pursuing effective international responses to climate change that involve all major emitters.

### **Task Group Report on Emissions Trading**

- The centrepiece of Australia's climate change strategy is the implementation of a world leading, comprehensive national emissions trading scheme – to begin no later than 2012.
- It will be flexible to take account of global developments, and will also work to preserve the competitiveness of Australia's trade exposed emissions intensive industries.
- The Australian Government is of the view that increases in energy costs must be kept as low as possible through letting the market place sort out the most efficient and innovative means of lowering emissions, with all low emission technologies to be considered including nuclear power.

### **Australia's Expanded Nuclear Industry Strategy**

- Australia is in the process of establishing a framework to support the potential development of a nuclear industry. This will include new regulatory arrangements, a communications program, enhanced research and development capacity, and further development of its skills and training in nuclear science and technology.
- We are also looking to participate in the global Generation IV advanced nuclear research programme so that Australia can be well placed to take advantage of this technology if it chooses to do so in the future.
- On 16 September 2007, Australia joined 15 other countries in the multilateral Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) at a Ministerial meeting in Vienna.

### **National Clean Energy Target**

- Lastly, the Australian Government's most recent announcement is a national Clean Energy Target (CET) which will see around 15 per cent of power sourced from low emission sources, including renewables and fossil fuel fired electricity generation equipped with carbon capture and storage.
- By 2020 this is expected to deliver up to 30,000 GWh of electricity p.a.

### **Further information**

Copies of relevant media releases and declarations on Australia's energy and climate change initiatives are available on the documentation table.